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LOCAL OFFICERS ARE CITED FOR PERFORMANCE IN LINE OF DUTY

Fanwood Council Recognizes Service Of Policemen and Others; Discusses Pending Repairs to Hetfield Bridge

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

A broad range of topics was addressed by the Fanwood Borough Council during its regular meeting last Thursday, May 8, following the announcement of appointments to the Fanwood Community Assessment Committee and several presentations and proclamations which were made honoring individuals and community events.

The governing body formally appointed nine people to the Community Assessment Committee, seven of whom have already been working together for the past year on development of a plan to assess the borough's strengths and weaknesses. Officials also passed a resolution naming Kathy Weiner, who has been serving as a volunteer facilitator for the group, as a consultant to the committee for a fee of \$15,000.

Committee members include Chairman David Pickering, Borough Clerk Eleanor McGovern, Councilmen William E. Populus, Jr. and Louis

C. Jung, Planning Board member Jack Molenaar, Joseph Nagy, Carole Wood, Carole Kraus and Candy Santo. Councilman Jung and Mr. Nagy are the two newest members of the group.

Council members announced that Mr. Molenaar, who also chairs the Fanwood Downtown Redevelopment Committee, will serve as the borough's Municipal Cross-Acceptance Representative during a county review of Fanwood's redevelopment plan for the downtown.

The three presentations made by the governing body recognized Executive Director Adam M. Hersh and the staff of The Chelsea in Fanwood, a new assisted living facility on the former site of the Mansion Hotel on South Avenue; John Fitzgerald of United National Bank, for his contributions to the community, and the Fanwood Police Department.

Council President and Police Commissioner Bruce H. Walsh was joined by Fanwood Police Chief Anthony J. Parenti in honoring several borough police officers who earned Meritorious Service or Exceptional Service Awards for their performances in the line of duty. Each of the officers recently participated in investigations or arrests in which firearms were involved.

These officers, some of whom were accompanied by family members for the presentation ceremony, included Sergeant Howard Jarvis, Sergeant Thomas Jedic, Corporal Joseph

O'Neil and Patrolmen James Stewart, Frank Marrero, Marc Gottlick and Anthony Nassaur. Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly commended the officers for their efforts in protecting the community.

Proclamations were issued in recognition of May 4 through May 10 as Teacher Appreciation Week and May 12 as having been the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive Day.

An additional proclamation designated May as Rescue Squad Month and Sunday through Saturday, May 18 through May 24, as Emergency Medical Services Week. During this portion of the meeting, Mayor Connelly recalled the service of the late Vincent D'Aloisio of Fanwood, who had served with both the Fanwood Fire Department and the Rescue Squad. Mr. D'Aloisio died May 8 at age 81.

A proclamation was also issued citing Marisa Mangione of Fanwood for having received the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award bestowed by the Girl Scouts and the equivalent of the Eagle Scout Award given by the Boy Scouts. To earn the Gold Award, Marisa completed a project to organize and computerize the library at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield.

During committee reports, Councilman Jung, who chairs the council's Public Works Committee, lauded the efforts of Fanwood Public Works Director Raymond Manfra in orga-

nizing the borough's April 19 celebration of Earth Day. Mr. Jung confirmed that 84 people, ranging from toddlers to senior citizens, took part in a community clean-up that day. He also commended Mr. Manfra for his efforts in publicizing the municipality's recycling programs.

Mr. Jung also reported that the municipality expects to initiate bidding for work to be done on the bridge on Hetfield Avenue this fall, with actual repairs scheduled to begin next spring. The bridge, half of which is in Fanwood and the other half of which is in Scotch Plains, will need a general upgrade along with comprehensive improvements to the two approaches, according to the councilman.

The cost of the bridge repairs will be shared by Scotch Plains and Fanwood, along with Union County and

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Scotch Plains Zoo Owners Cancel Appeal

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

The owners of the beleaguered Scotch Plains Zoo on Tuesday withdrew their planned appeal of the state's decision not to renew their operating permits, but intend to keep the popular facility open while exploring other options. They were given 15 days, however, to make plans for relocating approximately 60 exotic animals to other qualified establishments.

Harold and Deborah Kafka agreed to accept the state's ruling during an appearance before Judge Edith Klinger at the Office of Administrative Law in Newark. The Watching residents, who had been scheduled to appeal their case during a public hearing beginning at 9 a.m., held a conference with the judge beforehand to announce their decision, their attorney said.

The Kafkas, who have owned the zoo on Raritan Road for three years, had recently been cited by the state for multiple violations related to "public safety and animal welfare," according to Fish, Game and Wildlife officials, who declined to renew permits for the zoo in January. The couple was then given an opportunity to appeal, which they filed for on February 28.

About 10 people showed up for the Office of Administrative Law hearing, including several animal rights activists. The New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, based in Englishtown, has held regular pickets at the zoo to protest what they maintain are unsatisfactory living conditions for the animals. The organization issued a statement Tuesday saying members were pleased and "overwhelmed" by the latest turn of events.

The Kafkas' attorney, Joseph E. Murray of Berkeley Heights, said he had informed State Deputy Attorney General James Murphy on Monday that it was likely the Kafkas would withdraw their appeal. The Deputy Attorney General oversees the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division, which is a branch of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Among the exotic animals which must be transferred under the state's ruling are elephants, giraffes, large cats, primates, pygmy hippopotamuses and reptiles, which are regulated by the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division. The Kafkas will be allowed to retain their farm animals, however, which are under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Agriculture.

According to Mr. Murray, his clients would have had to not only remedy the violations cited by the Fish, Game and Wildlife Division but also complete other renovations to the zoo before the state would consider renewing their operating permits. He said the violations listed by the state had been "substantially cured," including repairs made to the wolf den, although he conceded that additional work still needed to be done.

However, the greatest obstacle to the Kafkas getting their permits renewed, according to their attorney, who had advised them to withdraw

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David B. Corbin for The Times

RIBBON CUTTING TO LEARNING... Fanwood Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, right foreground, prepares to cut the ribbon held by Kimberly Lorenzini, a fifth grader at McGinn Elementary School, for the grand reopening of the children's section of the Fanwood Memorial Library on May 10. Also pictured, left to right, are: Charles the Silent Clown; Children's Librarian Susan Staub and Fanwood Memorial Library President Steve Clark.

Library Celebrates Reopening Of Children's Area After Flood

By SUZETTE STALKER
Specially Written for The Times

Friends and patrons of the Fanwood Memorial Library celebrated the grand reopening last Saturday of its Children's Department, which sustained serious flood damage during an October 19 storm and was closed for several months while repairs were completed.

More than 150 people turned out for the day-long festivities at the library on North Avenue and Tillotson Road, which commenced with the ribbon-cutting by Mayor Maryanne S. Connelly, accompanied by Children's Librarian Susan Staub.

Among others on hand were Steven Clark, President of the library's Board of Trustees and his wife, Janet; Library Director Bruce Buckmaster; Councilman Louis C. Jung, the governing body's representative on the Board of Trustees; plus other board members and Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

"It was wonderful," reported Library Assistant Gloria Rusnak about the long-anticipated event. "We have a lot of our old patrons returning and a couple of new ones. Six of our regulars had turned six years old during the time we were closed so they were very anxious to get their cards."

Visitors to the newly-refurbished Children's Department downstairs in the library were treated to refreshments and favors supplied by the library and local merchants, plus entertainment by a clown who performed a stage show in the afternoon. Joining in the fun were the library's two guinea pigs, "Jerry" and the recently-arrived "Randolph."

Katherine Balch, Publicity Chairwoman for the Library Friends, and nine-year-old Katie Van Haasteren of Fanwood read the poem "A Joyful Noise," by Paul Fleishman. The Friends also donated four new children's books which were raffled off during the day.

Youngsters also had an opportunity to try out a brand new computer

Tracking System To Be Reduced At Middle Schools

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

After a Scotch Plains parent questioned district middle school "tracking" of students or offering honors and differing "levels" of classes to students, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. John R. Crews said last week that he would seek to reduce or eliminate the practice altogether.

The newly-appointed Dr. Crews initially said different "levels" of instruction was not policy, however, he later indicated that in practice, there may be some amount of tracking at Terrill Middle School.

"There are differences between the two (middle) schools," he admitted. Dr. Crews said that Park and Terrill Middle Schools seem to operate under two separate and somewhat opposing philosophies about "levels."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carol B. Choye indicated that Park Middle School has now moved to offering only one level of classes while Terrill has recently dropped to two levels from four. Dr. Crews added that the issue, "has not been ignored. It will be job targets for each school principal to resolve this."

School board members said they want to learn whether "levels" are actually being used in the schools. Board member Richard R. Meade said, "What we're hearing is not necessarily consistent with what we hear from parents."

Dr. Choye added, "You know, it isn't black and white. However, consistency is important. This is something we want to happen."

One district parent told the board if "levels" were used, she wanted to know the criteria for a student's placement in a particular class and said that parents should be notified in advance.

On a separate matter, Dr. Choye told the board she would ask for half days during the last two days of the school year so teachers can clean their rooms in the afternoon.

"I believe strongly in this," she said. "Next year, I will ask for all four days to be shortened."

Two of those days would be used for staff training, she added. The board did agree that two unused snow days would not be "given back" to students as holidays.

"I do not believe in 'minimum' education," Dr. Choye said, referring to calculating possible holidays

which will be available to the public within the next several weeks. The unit — part of a long-range plan to equip the entire library with state-of-the-art technology — will allow users to access encyclopedias and other reference materials including map software, according to Mrs. Rusnak.

During the storm last fall, street flooding coupled with a malfunction in the library's main sump pump caused the entire children's section to fill with several inches of water, causing destruction of the carpeting and a door. There was minimal damage to books on the shelves, however, according to Mrs. Rusnak.

Approximately 25,000 books had to be packed and later unpacked by library staff members and adult and student "pages," as well as others who pitched in with the enormous effort. In addition, shelves, book cases and the ruined carpet had to be removed and the floor cleaned and primed before the new carpeting was laid down.

Mrs. Rusnak said that Joan Costello, a teacher at McGinn Elementary School in Scotch Plains, devoted five Saturdays to helping transfer the books. The Library Assistant said she found a couple of moving companies which, along with Baker and Taylor, a Somerset book distributor, were willing to donate boxes in which to pack the Fanwood library books.

She commended Ms. Staub and Maryellen and George Doldouras of Fanwood for driving down to the distribution warehouse to pick up the boxes, as well as Fanwood Public Works employees and Director Raymond Manfra for helping to move heavy boxes, desks and files and relocating and repositioning book cases.

Both the primary sump pump and a backup pump at the library have been

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BID IS 15.2 PERCENT OVER CURRENT FEE

Township Considering Bid on Recycling Pact

By JEANNE WHITNEY
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains Township Council said Tuesday it was considering a \$145,528 bid for township recycling services from a Newark firm, starting Tuesday, July 1. Great Northern Recycling's price tag still represents a 15.2 percent increase over last year's costs but came in nearly \$90,000 under the next lowest bidder. Officials said the township spent about \$125,000 on recycling last year with an Essex County service.

Concern over rising recycling costs across the board has given way to fears that recycling programs will be abandoned altogether.

"It will be cheaper to throw it away," a township official observed.

Officials attribute higher industry costs to a loss of subsidies and tax credits. Additionally, \$8 million in state funding for recycling was allowed to expire at the end of last year with the prospect of industry wide deregulation looming. Over the past 10 years, New Jersey has reached a high of 60 percent in its recycling rate, according to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Initially, township officials questioned whether certain inconsistencies in Great Northern's offer would disqualify the low bid. Attorneys de-

termined there was minimal risk involved and council members considered trying to lock in the lower rate for more than one year. Officials said Great Northern services half of the City of Newark and suburban East Hanover.

Great Northern said it would provide house-to-house recycling for the township in two sections, every other week. There is also a "hotline" for any missed pickups, officials added. The council is expected to make a decision within the next two weeks.

On a separate matter, the council said it would be asking for a \$300,000 bond issue to make improvements to Brookside Park and a pond located along Hetfield Avenue. Officials said they hoped to dredge the pond, install pond fountains, replace the path and footbridge, grade the pond banks and possibly pave the parking lot and basketball courts.

Councilwoman Joan Papen said, "It's going to be very nice when it's finished."

Officials have said the work will not be done until fall. Last month, the council approved \$10,000 in engineering fees for the project.

The council will also be considering whether to enact a "no left turn" ordinance during morning and

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YOUTH IN BUSINESS... Pictured above are students in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA who competed in the National competitions in Anaheim, California. Several students won awards at the event for their business and marketing projects. Please see story on Page 10.

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Deadlines Told For Submittals To The Times

Those persons preparing press releases for submission to *The Times* are reminded that copy should be E-mailed or faxed by 4 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. *The Times*' E-mail address is goleader@aol.com. The fax number is 232-0473.

Releases, pictures, and letters to the editor can also be dropped off at our office located at 50 Elm Street or through our mail slot. To ensure that submittals reach our office prior to deadline we encourage E-mail or faxed material.

Sports stories which occur prior to the weekend must be in by the Friday deadline. Weekend sports events must be submitted by noon on the Monday prior to the publication date. Obituaries will be accepted up to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

All copy must be typed, double-spaced, no more than 500 words in length, and include a daytime telephone number where the submitter can be reached.

For events which are planned months in advance, we encourage submission of stories as early as possible prior to the event.

Please note that in addition to making our deadlines, the publication of submittals may be delayed due to space considerations. All submittals are subject to being cut due to length, edited for style and clarification at the discretion of the editor.